

## Summary of the Minutes

November 18, 2013 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

PHCD Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

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**Commissioners Present:** Dick Andrus, Julian Shepherd, Joshua De Marree

**Commissioners Absent:** Bev Rainforth (excused), Alexandra Spencer (excused), Lou Sebesta, Carolyn Wilczynski

**Staff Liaison:** Melissa Enoch

**Guests:** Teresa Baleno, Bill Barber (Parks Dept), Paul Palmer (Parks Dept), Artem Treyger (NYSEG)

**Minutes for October 21, 2013:** Will be corrected and approved via email

**Next Meeting:** December 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM City Hall Planning Dept Conference Room

**Note:** Lack of Quorum: We could not vote on any issues.

**1. Possibility of new members:** Josh may know a landscape architect. Recruitment of David Cody and Artem Treyger was discussed. Artem agreed to apply to be a new member. Julian will call Carolyn Wilczynski and Dick will call Lou Sebesta to determine if they are still interested in continuing as members.

**2. Site Plans:**

- a) 172 Broad Ave., Empire Recycling – case closed. The STC asked for the remaining tree noted in applicant's site plan to be planted. Applicant planted tree.
- b) New site plan at 439-440 Court St. Site has 50 percent canopy and storm water mitigation. Shade Tree Commission has no additional recommendations.

**3. Street Tree Donation and Planting:**

- a) NASCAR supplied 90 trees. They were very small, so were planted in parks with low foot traffic. They consisted of Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, London Plane, Redbud, Serviceberry, and Hackberry.

**4. City Street Trees Plantings & NSEG Tree Donation Fund:**

- a) Have 75 requests, will plant 126. Not yet planted because of need to check infrastructure in the utility strips.
- b) 30 trees purchased with funds donated by NYSEG are here. They will mostly be planted where trees were removed. Artem has a list of sites.

- c) The trees for NYSEG and city street tree program include 9-10 different types, no Canadian Red Maples, and 34 Serviceberry trees. In the future, the request forms will have only two large and two small species.
- d) The Committee decided that requests rejected would receive a form letter and Melissa will do this.

**5. Citizen Pruning Program:**

- a) Josh, Melissa and Bill had discussed a contract, in which Josh will supervise the Citizen Pruner Program in 2014. The committee discussed the need to have a meeting of pruners before the end of the year. The recent inventory contract included a provision for training by Andy Hillman. Melissa will give Josh a list-serve of pruners and Josh will arrange a Saturday morning meeting.

**6. DEC Grant Opportunities:**

- a) Applications for DEC tree management, inventory and planting grants are due December 4. The Planning Department will see if we can apply, probably will do applications where no city matching is required. Plan is to submit one application for a complete inventory of city trees in the amount of about \$25,000. A previous grant allowed us to make a statistical sample. A second application might be money for planting and that will be in the range of \$12,000. This will be to augment our regular planting program. Julian promised to write support letters for each in his position as Conservation Chair of the Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club.